

It is imperative that, more coordination by the Colombian government, our State Department and the philanthropic communities develop mechanisms to address this critical issue. President Uribe of Colombia agreed to the creation of a Cabinet level appointee to address the crisis facing Afro-Colombians and we are waiting for this to happen. This person will provide coordination amongst the Colombian government, the State Department, NGOs and other groups to address the plight of the Afro-Colombian communities. This will afford Afro-Colombians a voice in public policy that will ultimately have an impact on their communities.

The role of the United States must be, as it has in the past, multi-faceted. We must work closely with the Colombian government, our State Department and USAID to fight this crisis on all fronts. We must help to put an end to the oppression that the Afro-Colombian people have endured over the past 154 years since the abolishment of slavery.

Mr. Speaker, we must contribute more money in the area of sustainable development and rely less on military aid to solve Colombia's problems. We cannot continue to allow the egregious human rights violations within the Afro-Colombian community to continue. We must hold the Colombian government accountable on its human rights record and for its neglect of the Afro-Colombians.

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HONORING JAMES EDWARD  
WESTCOTT

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HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize Mr. James Edward Westcott of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for his continued dedication and service to the community.

Ed Westcott's career has been a long and illustrious one. He served a unique role in capturing the history of Oak Ridge. In 1941, Ed went to work for the United States Army Corps of Engineers as their chief photographer for the famed Manhattan Project. He served the City with two distinct roles, officially documenting the historic creation and operation of the "Secret City" and unofficially documenting the daily life and events of the community of Oak Ridge as a photojournalist for the Oak Ridge Journal.

Throughout Mr. Westcott's career, he has captured numerous historic events and many notable personalities on film, including seven presidents. His most important work, however, was capturing the unique history and heritage of Oak Ridge. The early people of this town who dedicated their services to the greater cause of our country will never be forgotten thanks to the talents and contributions of Ed Westcott.

He has truly distinguished himself through his commitment and service to the community.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR STEFAN  
KAPSCH'S RETIREMENT FROM  
REED COLLEGE

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, this month, Stefan Kapsch will retire as a professor of political science at Reed College. Professor Kapsch came to Reed from the University of Pennsylvania in 1974. For thirty years, he has inspired Reed students with his passion for American politics, empirical methodology, and constitutional law.

Professor Kapsch's career is distinguished by an impressive record of civic engagement. For him, public policy analysis is not just an abstract subject for classroom discussion; it is a very real and ongoing pursuit. Professor Kapsch has been research director of the Oregon Commission on the Judicial Branch, executive director of the Oregon Prison Overcrowding Project and research partner in the SACSI Initiative of the National Institute of Justice, a project on youth gun violence in Portland. By his example, Professor Kapsch has taught generations of students that independent academic analysis is a necessary component of good policymaking.

Professor Kapsch has taken a special interest in the former Yugoslavia—and Slovenia in particular—where he was a Fulbright Fellow to the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Ljubljana in 1994–95. He has served as a voter registration supervisor for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is charged with the conduct of elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina under the Dayton Accords. In 2002, Professor Kapsch was a Senior Fulbright Scholar at the Amerika Institut of Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich.

Professor Kapsch will be remembered for his ability to bring even the most technical subjects to life through classroom discussions and seminars. He has earned a reputation among Reed students as the faculty's best storyteller, with an anecdote to illustrate every new principle introduced in class.

In his three decades at Reed, Professor Kapsch was a mentor, a confidant, and a friend to countless students and he will certainly be missed. But his retirement marks the start of a fresh chapter in his life, as he will spend more time brewing homemade beer, relaxing at the Oregon coast, restoring his 1952 Ford Pickup, and enjoying the company of his loving wife Shirley, his children and grandchildren.

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IN HONOR OF THE HOUSING AU-  
THORITY OF PLAINFIELD'S 30TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF RICHMOND  
TOWERS

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HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the longevity of the Richmond Towers in Plainfield, New Jersey.

This September, the Housing Authority of Plainfield will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of

the Richmond Towers, a 225 unit senior citizen complex developed to serve seniors within the Plainfield area. This building is a testament to the successes of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which funded this project that helped to house thousands of residents in the Plainfield community.

Today I feel fortunate to stand here and announce that two agencies, one at the Federal level and one at the state, have not only followed through with their goals, but exceeded them. The Housing Authority has been invaluable to the senior citizens of Plainfield and I am confident that it will continue to be for the next 30 years as well.

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REGARDING FORECLOSURES  
AMONG MINORITIES

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HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, homeownership can be the passage to the American dream. It can help offer wealth and even tax credit to American citizens. Nonetheless homeownership can also bring great economic devastation. While we were back in our districts, it was reported that there has been an increasing epidemic of foreclosures, especially among working-class neighborhoods. Even more, wide disparity between the rate of white homeowners and members of ethnic minority groups continue to exist. These foreclosures have fallen particularly hard on black and Latino families. As citizens face low interest rates and the pressure to refinance, an escalating number of citizens have found themselves unable to take on their mortgage debt. This past March, 47 states experienced a rise in foreclosure rates, and today, more than eight percent of homeowners spend at least half of their income on their mortgage. These numbers are appalling.

A recent study in Chicago found that rising foreclosures fuel increases in crime rates. So, not only does this affect our economic structure, but our security in society. Homeownership, especially among minorities, should not lead to economic and social ruin. In my district, just 37 percent of African-Americans own homes of their own. That's below the average for the city as a whole and falls far short of the national homeownership rate of 68 percent. Chicago should thrive off its bustling economic and cultural prospects, not be brought down because the citizens cannot afford to prosper.

In fact, there have been measures taken to counteract this declining trend. Recently, the Administration announced a goal to increase homeownership among minorities by 5.5 million households before the end of the decade through various programs such as American Dream Down-Payment Initiative. Nonetheless, the trends continue to move downward. Rising interest rates and discrimination continue to hinder homeownership among minorities. Minorities, especially African Americans, have experienced a significant disadvantage in terms of wealth creation. While sustaining the cost of housing provides great difficulty, many citizens cannot even find jobs before aspiring to finance homeownership. Before the Administration can help minorities increase homeownership, it must first give the citizens job